



Press Release

Lake County Sheriff's Office
www.sheriffdunlap.org

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Sheriff

PRESS RELEASE **October 17, 2012**

Halloween is only two weeks away, and now is a very important time to begin discussing with your children important safety tips so they have them committed to memory on the exciting night of All Hallows Eve.

Since children have limited attention spans, *Safekids.org* explains that when it comes to preventing injury and keeping children safe on Halloween, repeated and consistent messages are keys to safety. As an example, kids out in the dark are hard to see, and since they are excited moving from one treat to the next, they have tendency to dart into traffic without thinking. It may be common sense to parents, but not to kids since Halloween night is one the highest, if not the highest night for kids being struck by vehicles.

Creative YET REFLECTIVE costumes are keys to insuring safety. Drivers slowing down or more importantly not choosing to drive during trick or treat hours through the neighborhoods are equally as important as parents walking children under age 12 across the street, on every street, no matter how untraveled it may seem.

Here are a few more safety tips available at [safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org)
(<http://www.safekids.org/safety-basics/safety-spotlight/halloween-safety/>):

- Children under 12 should trick-or-treat and cross streets with an adult.
- Always walk on sidewalks or paths. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible.
- Cross the street at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks. Parents should remind children to watch for cars that are turning or backing up.
- Look left, right and left again when crossing and keep looking as you cross. Walk, don't run, across the street.

And here are just a few more:

- Slow down and be especially alert in residential neighborhoods. Children are excited on Halloween and may move in unpredictable ways.

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- Anticipate heavy pedestrian traffic and turn your headlights on earlier in the day so you can spot children from greater distances.
- Remember that costumes can limit children's visibility and they may not be able to see your vehicle.
- Reduce any distractions inside your car so you can concentrate on the road and your surroundings.
- Decorate costumes and bags with reflective tape or stickers and choose light colored costumes to improve visibility.
- Choose face paint and make-up instead of masks, which can obstruct a child's vision. Look for non-toxic designations when choosing Halloween makeup.
- Avoid carrying sticks, swords, or other sharp objects.
- Have kids carry glow sticks or flashlights in order to see better, as well as to be seen by drivers.
- Liquid in glow sticks is hazardous, so parents should remind children not to chew on or break them.
- Check treats for signs of tampering before children are allowed to eat them. Candy should be thrown away if the wrapper is faded or torn, or if the candy is unwrapped.

Safety doesn't happen by accident, but accidents do happen because we do not practice safety. Make this Halloween a safe one !

Frank Leonbruno

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